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Alberta's Aboriginal Policy

STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS

A Cross-Ministry Initiative

Report to Albertans

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In its first year, the API focused on establishing cross-ministry strategies and measures

- Improve the health status and well-being of the community.
- Support life-long learning opportunities for all.
- Respect and promote Aboriginal cultures.

- Increase the participation by Aboriginal
- Clarify federal/provincial/Aboriginal

In 2002-03, the API's third year, the over strategies across relevant ministries. I re Aboriginal issues. Over 80 per cent of 2002-05 business plans.



ed the *Aboriginal Policy Framework (APF)*. The Aboriginal government implements the *APF*. The *API* is one of fouratives.

ishment of an internal implementation process, including

key objectives:

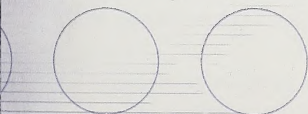
g of Aboriginal people.

for Aboriginal people and promote appreciation of

people in the Alberta economy.

s and responsibilities.

nnment of Alberta developed more consistent and focusedasing emphasis is being placed on partnerships to address
rta ministries identified Aboriginal strategies in their



Objective 1:

Improve the health status and well-being of Aboriginal people.

Accomplishments

- Initiated development of an **Aboriginal tobacco framework** as part of Alberta's Tobacco Reduction Strategy.
- Initiated the "**Family Friend**" **homecare project** with Lakeland Regional Health Authority and the four eastern Metis Settlements.
- Implemented four new **addictions treatment initiatives** with Aboriginal communities.
- Launched a **mental wellness campaign** and implemented new **mental health early-intervention initiatives** in High Level and the Piikani (Peigan) Nation.
- Supported **Bigstone Cree Nation/MaMowe CFSA Permanency Planning Project**, which placed 18 First Nations children with permanent First Nations adoptive parents.
- With input from Alberta First Nations, developed general **updateable health indicators** for the provincial First Nations population.
- Supported seven new **community-based primary healthcare** projects under the Aboriginal Health Strategy Project Fund—a 28 per cent increase.
- Increased the number of Aboriginal communities with active **youth justice committees** by 15 per cent (to 30). Alberta Solicitor General's youth justice committee program received both national and provincial awards for program excellence.

Objective 2:

Improve educational attainment and cultural appreciation.

Accomplishments

- Completed the **First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework** and initiated implementation of recommendations.
- **First provincial program in Aboriginal Studies**, including historical and contemporary issues, was developed in partnership with elders, educators and government staff.
- **Integration of Aboriginal historical and cultural content** into the revised K-12 Social Studies Program.
- Increased the value of **Aboriginal Health Careers Bursaries** awarded by 12 per cent. Initiated campaigns to encourage more applications.
- Launched the **Aboriginal Learner Data Collection Initiative** to collect voluntary information on Aboriginal ancestry in provincial schools and post-secondary institutions.
- Collected baseline data on **appreciation of Aboriginal culture** at three Provincial Parks and six provincially owned heritage facilities.
- Supported and participated in the **125th Anniversary Commemoration Event for the Signing of Treaty 7**.
- Developed a new **Grade 10 Social Studies curriculum** that includes an Aboriginal justice component.



Objective 3:

Increase the participation by Aboriginal people in the Alberta economy.

Accomplishments

- Developed **five new employment-oriented training projects** with Aboriginal communities, organizations and private-sector partners. 130 First Nations and Metis trainees participated.
- Introduced the **First Nations Training-to-Employment Program**, to address skill shortages and provide employment training for First Nations people.
- Implemented **Alberta Aboriginal Apprenticeship Project** pilot projects in Fort McMurray, High Level and Edmonton to increase Aboriginal participation in apprenticeship programs.
- Implemented a pilot project with Statistics Canada to include **Aboriginal "identifiers" in the monthly Alberta Labour Force Survey** to generate data on employment and education.
- Encouraged increased participation of Aboriginal organizations in **Regional Economic Development Alliances (REDAs)**. Nine Alberta First Nations and Metis Settlements now participate in REDAs.
- Initiated **capacity-building projects with Aboriginal communities/organizations** focusing on economic development, business planning and governance.
- Initiated implementation of the **First Nations Gaming Policy** (approved 2001) to provide guidelines for developing on-reserve casinos within Alberta's regulatory framework.
- Published an employer handbook, ***Diversity: A strategy to meet your need for skilled workers***, which includes information about the benefits of hiring Aboriginal workers.
- Continued to encourage **partnerships between Aboriginal communities/organizations and industry**. More than 60 such partnerships exist in Alberta.

Objective 4:

Clarify federal/provincial/Aboriginal roles and responsibilities.

Accomplishments

- Completed the **Piikani/Canada/Alberta Settlement Agreement** supporting Piikani initiatives and the continued development of positive relationships among the parties.
- Started building an **effective consultation process** with First Nations and industry regarding resource development and regulatory processes affecting land and resource management.
- Convened focus groups to gather Aboriginal input for development of a **draft provincial water strategy** (*Water for Life*).
- Developed the **Northern East Slopes Sustainability Strategy** with extensive input from First Nation and Métis groups in west-central Alberta.
- Provided technical advice and financial support to eight First Nations toward completion of **traditional use studies**.
- Prepared strategic overview of existing **Aboriginal Participation in the Alberta Economy** for the Alberta/Canada Partnership Forum.
- Alberta, Canada and the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation reached an **agreement-in-principle** on a land exchange.

BACKGROUND

In September 2000, Alberta released *Strengthening Relationships, The Government of Alberta's Aboriginal Policy Framework*.

- The *APF* was developed with input from all Government of Alberta ministries, Aboriginal communities, industry and other interested Albertans.
- The *APF* establishes a framework for Government of Alberta policies to address Aboriginal issues in Alberta.

The Government of Alberta's Business Plan includes Aboriginal measures in its health and education goals (Goals 1 and 2) and in Goal 5, which is Aboriginal-specific. Reporting on these measures can be found in the Government of Alberta's Annual Report (*Measuring Up*), released every June. Additional information can be found in individual ministry annual reports, released every September.

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